(c) whether Government are aware that the several colonies and houses like Tindharia of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railways do not have the proper facilities like water, marmati, passages, toilets etc.; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railways always endeavour to provide and maintain required facilities in the quarters and colonies as per entitlement of the employees. However required facilities may not be available in some quarters/colonies.

(c) and (d) Corporate Welfare Plan for 10 years at a cost of Rs. 5000 crore has also been approved to pay special attention towards maintenance and improvement of staff quarters with particular emphasis on substandard quarters lacking basic amenities and replacement of old and dilapidated quarters on Railways. In the current year sanctions have been given for additional works of Rs. 344 crore. At Tindharia, there are 16 numbers of quarters in which proper toilet facility is not available. However, water supply arrangement is available there. The occupants of these 16 quarters are being shifted to other vacant quarters, wherein all amenities are available.

Recommendations of National Transport Policy Committee

2729.SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee (Pande Committee) in regard to enhancing of speed of freight trains;

(b) whether Government have considered the proposals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) National Transport Policy Committee observed that the speed differential between the mail/express and freight trains adversely affects the line capacity utilization. The committee felt that if freight trains could be run at speeds of 90 KMPH it will reduce turnaround time and wagon requirement. Investment in wagon design and tracks structure will help in improving rail efficiency and prove to be economical in the long run.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Indian Railways have improved the tracks structure and designed new wagons which has enabled running of some freight trains at 100 KMPH.

(d) Does not arise.